



Attorney Docket No.: 5087.304-US

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Noguchi et al.

Confirmation No: 9126

Serial No.: 09/371,343

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: August 10, 1999

Examiner: Alvo, M.

For: Method For Producing Cellulose Derivatives

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 12, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows (a marked up version pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.21 is attached hereto):

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims having the same claim numbers:

1. (Amended) A method for producing a cellulose derivative, said method comprising
  - a) treating a pulp with a hemicellulase under conditions in which the hemicellulase is enzymatically active, and
  - b) etherifying the treated pulp under conditions that result in etherification of cellulose molecules in the pulp.
  
6. (Amended.) The method of any of claims 1-4, wherein the chemical modification is methyl-etherification, ethyl-etherification, hydroxyethyl-etherification, hydroxypropyl-etherification, or carboxymethyl-etherification.

RECEIVED  
FEB 04 2002  
TC 1700